

MAC members (from page 1)

Clairmont lives in Ronan, and is a member of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. He's been the art director at Salish Kootenai College since 1984. Previously, he was an instructor and head of the printmaking department at Otis/Parsons Art Institute in Los Angeles.

Clairmont holds a bachelor's from Montana State University, did a graduate fellowship at San Fernando State University and received a master's in fine arts from California State University, Los Angeles.

His work has been exhibited from coast to coast and around the world, including Germany and New Zealand, and has been reviewed by *The New York Times*. He also designed the cover and emblem for the American Indian Library Association, and a large granite warrior memorial for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Nation, which was installed in 2010.

Through the years, he has served on many professional boards and curated and juried several art shows. He's the recipient of a Ford Foundation grant, NEA and MAC grants, and a fellowship award from the Eiteljorg Museum in Indianapolis. Most recently, Clairmont was awarded the 2008 Montana Governor's Arts Award for Visual Art.

Helena resident **Arlene Parisot** has an extensive background in higher education, adult learning programs and networking. She received a doctorate in adult, community and higher education from Montana State University, a master's in career counseling and guidance from Montana State University-Northern, and a bachelor's from Idaho State University.

She recently retired as the director of Workforce Development and Two-Year Education for the Montana University System. She represented the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education on the State Workforce Investment Board, chaired the Two-Year Education Council, and staffed the Montana Board of Regents Workforce Development Standing Committee.

Parisot was a faculty member for the University of Oklahoma and the University of Maryland, and earlier in her career was a high school and middle school teacher in Montana, Idaho and California, as well as Germany and Japan.

Parisot has published articles in the *Adult Learning Journal* and *New Directions for Community Colleges* relating to teaching at a distance and developing institutional policy for distance education and use of technology, and also co-authored a publication focused on providing access to postsecondary education for individuals with disabilities.

She partnered with Dr. Stuart Rosenfeld, president of Regional Technology Strategies (RTS), to establish a Creative Enterprise Cluster, and MSU-Great Falls was awarded a grant to develop a cluster to help transform artisans into creative entrepreneurs.

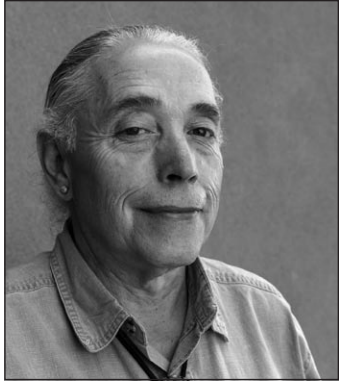
New members:

Helena resident **Karen Bohlinger**, president of Corporate Consultants, has enjoyed a 20-year career in business and international trade.

In 1992, she was appointed by the United States Department of Commerce to create and chair the Montana District Export Council, becoming the first female to chair a district export council in the nation.

She is also one of the founding members and former chairperson of the Montana World Trade Center, the first public/private trade organization partnership in the nation. As chair, she traveled to over 68 countries, where she represented Montana and its products.

She has served on more than 20 state and national boards over the past 20 years, and is currently a member of the President's



Corky Clairmont

Advisory Councils for The University of Montana and Carroll College. She also serves as a keynote speaker for the Small Business Administration.

She was interim director of the Holter Museum of Art in Helena for over a year, overseeing a budget of \$600,000, a staff of eight, and a collection of more than 3,000 works of art. She also spent several years as a member

and policy advisor for the Helena Symphony board of directors.

Bohlinger hopes her considerable business expertise can help the arts council "in developing reliable economic activity data to assist our leaders and decision makers when investing in the arts in Montana."

"The nonprofit arts and cultural industry is an economic driver that creates jobs, attracts investments, impacts tourism and provides revenue to local and state government," she adds. "In addition to connecting our communities and adding richness to our lives, the arts mean business."

The new MAC member is married to former Lt. Gov. John Bohlinger.

Community theatre has been **Tom Cordingley's** lifelong avocation. From his memorable, lineless, 14-second walk-on as Moving Man No. 2 in C.M. Russell High's "A Raisin in the Sun," to his retirement from the leadership of Helena's Grandstreet Theatre, he has become, again, speechless.

A graduate of the Journalism School at the University of Montana, he ventured into the Drama Department when not attempting student newspaper exposes on university and Grizzly politics. Similarly during his 10-year stint at the *Great Falls Tribune* production and advertising departments, he moonlighted at the C.M. Russell Museum Children's Theatre, Bruce Cusker's Summer Showcase and the Electric City Community Theatre, where he served as board chairman.

Cordingley also served on the Montana Repertory Theatre Advisory Board in the early 1980s, which inspired his enthusiasm for statewide theatre. Shoehorned into this same time period were 10 years with the C.M. Russell Art Auction as the Great Falls Advertising Federation's photographer.

Cordingley's move to Helena to become advertising director for *Montana Magazine* opened the door to acting opportunities at Grandstreet Theatre and eventually service as president of its board of directors. The position of managing director to Grandstreet Theatre became available making Tom's longtime avocation his vocation for the next 18 years.

The once struggling arts-focused front office adopted a business model under his direction, stressing the need for consistent cash flow and increased community involvement while allowing artistic freedom for the staff and community. During his tenure, he oversaw the growth of Grandstreet's Theatre School, a nationally recognized template for after-school and summer programs, in addition to now being a strong contender for statewide recognition of high-end summer stock theatre.

Cordingley was recently recognized for his 10-year service as the Montana representative to the American Association of Community Theatres.



Karen Bohlinger

(Photo by Dylan Brown/Independent Record)

Grandstreet has been on the receiving end of MAC grants during Cordingley's 26-year association. "It's time to give back," he says.

Plus, it runs in the family. His mother, Mary Cordingley, served on the council during Tim Babcock's governorship. "The pressure is on," says her son. "I wonder if she is watching."

Playwright, actor and director **Jay Pyette** says the arts are "a family passion." His wife, Dana, directs theatre and helps run their regional theatre company, the Montana Actors' Theatre. Daughter Sabrina is a lighting major at Concordia College and daughter Jessa is currently studying theatre in New York City. His three other children, Ty, Brandon and Kiana, have spent countless hours onstage and backstage.

"We joke about them being raised in a theatre and the sound of someone 'running lines' the theatre and the arts are an ingrained part of our life."

Pyette has taught English and theatre at Havre High School since 1995. He also teaches theatre and directs productions at Montana State University-Northern, and taught drama for a year at Stone Child College in Box Elder.

He earned a bachelor's degree in English and drama education from Northern Montana College and a master's in theatre arts from the University of Oregon, where his thesis focused on Shakespearean combat.

He founded Montana Actors' Theatre in 1992, which currently has branches in Havre and Great Falls, and serves as its artistic director. MAT toured his play, "Rugburns," across the state in 2005, and another original, "The Dead of Winter," was staged in London in 2003. FilmDionysia in Missoula produced his original screenplay, "Rosaries," in 2005.

Pyette hopes to bring his perspective as a performing artist to the Montana Arts Council, while simultaneously broadening his own perspective of the arts in Montana. "I travel the state quite a bit, and as I do, I look forward to reaching out to galleries, studios and theatres and meeting people, finding out how things are going and what we, as a council, can do to help them.

"I think doing so will foster that feeling of community and help connect all of the arts organizations in

our state," he adds.

Pyette attended his first arts council meeting June 8 in Livingston. "I absolutely felt that sense of community," he said. "Every person on the council has a vested interest in promoting and supporting all of the arts in Montana, not just those they are most interested in, and I'm proud to be working with such a group."

Pyette has been affiliated with the Northern Showcase and Hi-Line Concert associations, served on the Northern Montana Cultural and Visitor Center Development Committee, and was recently appointed to the Havre City Council.

"As a life-long resident of Montana's Hi-Line, one of my goals will be to bring people from that area more into the arts community," says Pyette. "The Hi-Line has so much to offer and I want to do whatever I can to help foster and grow those artistic ventures."



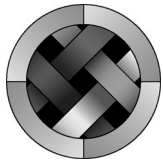
Jay Pyette



Tom Cordingley



Arlene Parisot



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Congressman Steve Daines seeks artwork for Helena office

U.S. Congressman Steve Daines hopes to help promote the careers of Montana artists by inviting them to show their work at his new Helena District office on Last Chance Gulch.

The venue offers a variety of large wall spaces in well-lit areas, which are suitable for two-dimensional works such as paintings and fiber art. There is also a possibility of displaying three-dimensional works such as sculpture and finely crafted artisan work.

The office staff will help to promote the artist's work through biographical and pricing information.

The artwork should demonstrate excellence and should not in any way be lewd, pornographic, racist, sexist or disparaging of any citizen. Artists will be asked to display their work for periods of six months. Artwork either sold or needed for another showing may be replaced with artwork of a similar size.

To apply, send a CD with 10 images, a brief biography and a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE). For more information about the art policies and venue agreement, please contact: Congressman Steve Daines, 910 N. Last Chance Gulch, B, Helena, MT 59601; or call 406-502-1435.